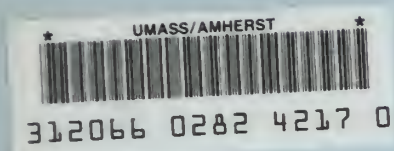


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STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

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The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP), administered by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, is the public agency within the Commonwealth that has taken the lead in identifying, cultivating and developing resources and services for people with traumatic brain injury. This has been accomplished over the past ten years through our training, program development, and service coordination activities. SHIP has been successful in putting into place a network of community-based services and supports that assist individuals in maintaining or increasing their level of independence at home, work or in their communities. SHIP recognizes the significant role that families have in supporting the person who has sustained the brain injury. Therefore, we have also included their needs in our program development efforts.

The fact sheets included in this packet provide an overview of many of the services that individuals, families and professionals can request from SHIP. They are not meant to represent all of what may be available to eligible applicants of this program; however, they do encompass many of the core services that SHIP considers to be essential to achieving one's maximum level of independence. We also sincerely hope that they have and will continue to contribute to the quality of life for those we serve.

We want to acknowledge and thank the Statewide Head Injury Program's Advisory Council who has supported and guided us through an exciting decade of accomplishment. We realize that we have many challenges ahead and look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Massachusetts Brain Injury Association, the Massachusetts Survivors' Council, and the SHIP Advisory Council.



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SURVIVOR AND FAMILY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) routinely sponsors educational programs for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and their families or significant others. These educational programs are provided periodically in various areas of the state. Examples of programs that SHIP sponsors are:

Informational seminars pertaining to the cognitive, neurobehavioral and psychiatric consequences of traumatic brain injury.

Special topics seminars on such issues as housing, guardianship, accessing entitlements, etc...

Facilitated Support Groups for the spouses or primary partners of individuals with traumatic brain injuries, as well as groups for the parents, siblings and children of individuals with traumatic brain injuries.

If you are interested in finding out more about these SHIP Educational Programs, please call the Statewide Head Injury Program at (617) 727-8732 and ask to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT AND THERAPY SERVICES

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) can provide access to a wide spectrum of individual treatment and therapy services. Examples of treatment or therapies which may be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Psychotherapy
- Psychopharmacology Consultation
- Neuropsychological Evaluation
- Neurobehavioral Assessment
- Psychiatric Services
- Communication Evaluation
- Adaptive Equipment Evaluation
- Neuro-Ophthalmology Assessment

These services are provided to eligible SHIP consumers based on individual clinical need. Therapies are short-term with specific functional goals. If a treatment or therapy is normally covered by medical insurance (i.e. Medicaid, Medicare, Mass Health, Common Health, Blue Cross-Blue Shield), SHIP consumers are expected to use this coverage before requesting funding through SHIP.

Individual treatment and therapy services are available to eligible consumers of the Statewide Head Injury Program. Access to all services is dependent on availability of current SHIP funding. If you have questions about these or other individual therapies or services, please contact SHIP by calling (617) 727-8732 and ask to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

A primary mandate of the Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) is to provide training and consultation to existing agencies, programs and professionals throughout the Commonwealth, both public and private, so they may better and more appropriately serve individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). The SHIP Technical Assistance services provides training and consultation, at no cost, to any organization or professional in the Commonwealth that is currently providing services to individuals with TBI or any professionals or organizations that are interested in working with persons with TBI.

SHIP Technical Assistance (TA) is provided by a variety of consulting clinicians, all of whom have experience in head injury rehabilitation. Consultants are available that specialize in neuropsychology, behavior management, substance abuse, cognitive therapy, vocational adjustment, environmental controls, sexuality issues and many other areas of specialization. A general overview of the effects of traumatic brain injuries is also available.

SHIP provides two distinct forms of Technical Assistance:

PROGRAMMATIC: SHIP consultants provide a general overview of the effects of TBI. General recommendations, strategies and suggestions are provided to the professional or organization that could improve the way services are provided to persons with TBI or enhance or improve the work being done with persons with TBI. Specific types of problems, behaviors, situations, or models of treatment or care may be discussed in this forum, but specific individuals cannot be identified, reviewed or discussed. The professional or organization need not be providing services to a SHIP-eligible consumer to request program TA.

CONSUMER-SPECIFIC: SHIP consultants address the needs, situation or circumstances of a specific SHIP-eligible consumer. This form of TA is available to individuals who have been determined eligible for SHIP paid services. The SHIP consultant can work directly with the service provider(s) to identify strategies; develop service or behavioral plans; and make recommendations to enhance and improve consumer participation and/or service provision.

SHIP has provided Technical Assistance to a wide spectrum of service providers such as Home Health Agencies, MHMA, independent Mental Health Centers, Elder Home Care agencies, Vocational Workshops, DMR and DMH residential and day programs, VNAs, etc... If you are interested in Technical Assistance services, please call the Statewide Head Injury Program at 617-727-8732 and ask to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

Assistive devices have become important tools for the enhancement of independent functioning in an individual's personal and professional life. Technological developments have moved at such an accelerated rate it is often well beyond one's capabilities to be knowledgeable of the current technological resources on the market. The Statewide Head Injury Program, in an effort to support its consumers' needs for the most up-to-date and appropriate assistive devices and adaptations, continues to develop a resource pool of the names of agencies, manufacturers and individuals involved within the field.

Many assistive devices and adaptations can be accessed through various governmental and private agencies. Some are paid for through insurance or through federal and state funding. Other devices and adaptations require partial or full funding from the consumer. SHIP is willing to work with the consumer to locate the appropriate resources to meet his or her needs. In some cases, SHIP is able to share the cost with eligible consumers when other funding is not available.

Since 1985, SHIP has assisted individuals in obtaining medical equipment and adapted devices for personal use; creating modifications in their work environment; and completing home modifications.

If you would like more information about Assistive Technology, please call the Statewide Head Injury Program at 617-727-8732 and ask to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

Each year, approximately 2,000 school age children sustain traumatic brain injuries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Often referred to as traumatic head injury, closed head injury, or brain trauma, the end result is a student that has sustained an injury to his or her head which has had a mild, moderate or severe effect on the brain. Even a "mild" traumatic brain injury (TBI) may leave a child with a host of cognitive, emotional, social and physical problems.

The specialized educational needs of children with traumatic brain injuries has been recognized by a 1991 federal amendment to the Education Act. This amendment created a separate category for TBI and identifies the need to access and fund programs and services that may be unique to this population.

Educators throughout the Commonwealth are, therefore, being faced with a newly-identified special needs population. Few teachers, however, have been trained or are experienced in working with children with TBI. Many of the common behaviors, emotions, and reactions that children have after a brain injury cause problems for them at school because they are not recognized appropriately or they are misunderstood. While administrators, school psychologists, counselors, therapists and classroom teachers often have the expertise and resources to provide effective educational programs, they often lack the specific knowledge and experience necessary to meet the needs of students with TBI.

The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) can provide Technical Assistance and Consultation pertinent to the educational needs of school-age individuals with traumatic brain injuries enrolled in public or private schools throughout Massachusetts. Technical Assistance (TA) is provided by a SHIP Special Education Consultant and/or a SHIP Consulting Neuropsychologist without cost to the school. School personnel or the parents of a child with a traumatic brain injury can request Technical Assistance from SHIP.

SHIP provides two distinct forms of Technical Assistance:

PROGRAMMATIC: SHIP consultants provide a general overview of the effects of TBI on school-age children focusing on the sequelae that most often affect school performance. General recommendations and suggestions are provided so that teachers can better plan for and work with children with TBI. Specific types of problems and behaviors may be discussed in this forum, but the needs of specific students cannot be identified, reviewed or discussed.

CLIENT-SPECIFIC: SHIP consultants address the educational needs of a specific student by reviewing clinical and educational materials and meeting with the team of school personnel working with the student. This form of TA is available to students who have been determined eligible for SHIP paid services. The SHIP consultant can be involved in the IEP process, review plans or address specific problems or concerns identified by school staff.

The purpose of the Technical Assistance Program for Schools is to assist school personnel in identifying and addressing the needs of students with traumatic brain injuries. As such, SHIP and SHIP Consultants will not become involved in BSEA appeals or intervene in disputes between a school and a student or their family regarding IEPs.

SHIP staff and consultants cannot provide evaluations or direct services (i.e., counseling, cognitive therapy, etc...) as these services should be available and accessible through the LEA or the student's health insurance. SHIP staff and consultants can recommend, upon request, clinicians and services for which there is an identified need.

Requests pertaining to the SHIP Technical Assistance Program for Schools can be made by calling 617-727-8732 and asking to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

DAY TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) has developed and funds 5 day programs in the state which serve eligible consumers. These programs provide structured, supervised opportunities for individual and group training and practice in functional living skills in community-based settings. The programs are intended for persons who are medically and behaviorally stable and who are able to participate in groups. SHIP day programs do not provide rehabilitation therapies such as physical therapy or speech therapy. Services are driven by a philosophy emphasizing community integration and increased independence which can be carried over to real-life settings by the participant.

SHIP day programs are staffed by teams of professionals including a neuropsychologist. The treatment team includes the participant, their family (if appropriate) and the SHIP Case Coordinator. Upon admission to a day program, a comprehensive assessment is done, followed by the development of an individualized service plan (ISP) which addresses the needs identified by the consumer, the assessment process and the team. Progress toward achieving goals in the ISP are reviewed and documented on a regular basis. Areas that day programs address include independent living; cognitive remediation; behavior management; employment-related skills; socialization; and recreation and leisure planning. Programs also provide case management, advocacy and family support services. The programs assist and educate consumers and families about case management with the expectation that eventually they will take primary responsibility for this activity themselves.

Eligible consumers are considered for the day program in their region according to the date they applied to SHIP and are referred by SHIP accordingly. The programs are not time-limited. Individuals may continue as long as they participate, benefit and meet the eligibility criteria. Transition to a less structured setting is the long-term goal for most. Most programs have a supported employment component and each program has an affiliated evening and weekend recreation program which is open to any individual with a head injury.

If you would like more information about day treatment programs, please call SHIP at 617-727-8732 and ask to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

SOCIAL / RECREATION PROGRAMS

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) funds social/recreation programs that are sponsored by various organizations across the state. If you are an adult who lives in Massachusetts and have sustained a brain injury, you may be able to participate in one of these programs regardless of your status with SHIP.

Each program has an activities coordinator, but it is the participants who define and determine the types of activities and outings they want to do. Some of the events that participants have enjoyed are: dining out; barbecue and karaoke; game night; craft night; Boston Harbour Cruise; Cape Cod Canal Cruise; YMCA swims; Symphony Hall concerts; miniature golf; bowling; billards; movie night; Riverside Amusement Park; Comedy Club; Sturbridge Village; Freedom Trail and Faneuil Hall; Boston Computer Museum; Country Western Music/Dance; Museum of Fine Arts; and apple picking.

Please call the social/recreation programs listed below for a brochure/application. You may contact and attend any of these programs. However, you may want to consider contacting the program that would be most convenient for you to attend since transportation is not provided.

New England Sinai Hospital
150 York Street
Stoughton, MA 02072
(617) 344-0600 ext 322

Community Connections
291 Route 28
West Dennis, MA 02670
(508) 398-4200

Baroco Corporation
107 Otis Street
Northborough, MA 01532
(508) 393-1223

Boston Area Recreation Center
1454-1456 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02169
(617) 847-4987

Northeast Recreation Center
53 Cummings Park
Woburn, MA 01801
(617) 932-3938

East Mountain Head Injury Center
91 Elm Street
Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 572-4114

CMHS Head Injury Services
70 Main Street
Taunton, MA 02780
(508) 822-0551

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) has developed many programs and services for persons with traumatic brain injury (TBI). In contrast, the Family Assistance Program has been created by SHIP to address the needs of the families and significant others, who are living with individuals with traumatic brain injury.

Family assistance is provided by SHIP's clinical consultants and may be provided in the home, in a clinician's office, or at a site where individuals with traumatic brain injury and their family/significant other may be receiving services. The services provided through SHIP's Family Assistance Program may include:

- Short-term family counseling to address specific behavioral/psychological issues, resulting from TBI, which impact the family and/or household members.
- Development, implementation, and monitoring of in-home neurobehavioral treatment programs, which address the behavioral changes often resulting from traumatic brain injury.
- Assistance in identifying clinical needs and accessing appropriate clinical services, such as, neurologists, pharmacologists, psychologists and therapists, when indicated.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Family Assistance Program, please call the Statewide Head Injury Program at 617-727-8732 and ask to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

RESPITE SERVICES

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM

The Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP) provides respite services to eligible SHIP consumers and family members or primary caregivers. Respite services can provide SHIP consumers or their caregivers with an opportunity for rest and relaxation or the opportunity to attend to their own personal needs. Respite services can be provided in or out of the home for specified periods of time, ranging from a few hours to one or two weeks. This service can be requested by the SHIP consumer, family members or other primary caregivers.

In-Home Respite

In-home respite provides the primary caretaker with an opportunity to attend to his or her own personal needs, or take a break from the routine care and supervision of his or her head injured family member. A respite worker will come into the home for several hours on a weekly or monthly basis. The respite worker can engage the SHIP consumer in activities within the home; take them on a social or recreational outing; accompany them to a meeting or appointment; or simply stay with the consumer while the primary caretaker leaves the home.

Out-of-Home Respite

SHIP can provide 24-hour coverage in a respite facility for up to two weeks. The respite facility may provide social and recreational activities but it does not offer therapeutic programs to its guests.

Respite services are available to SHIP consumers living with a primary caregiver(s) at home. The SHIP consumer must be medically stable and pose no risk to self or others in community settings. Respite services are not available to SHIP consumers who live in residential programs, hospitals and/or long term treatment programs. The consumer and/or their family are responsible for their personal funds and personal needs during respite activities.

If you are interested in respite services, please call the Statewide Head Injury Program at 617-727-8732 and ask to speak to the Case Coordinator for your region of the state.

Information and Referral Contact People

Boston Region	William Kowalczyk (617) 727-8732
Central Region	Joan Smith (617) 727-8732
Northeast Region	Michael Orcutt (617) 727-8732
Southeast Region	Shella Lees (617) 727-8732
Western Region	Joseph Kelley (617) 727-8732
Residential Case Coordinator	Jennifer A'Hearn (617) 727-8732
Senior Program Coordinator	Beth Williams (617) 727-8732
SHIP Case Coordinator Supervisor	Bob Ferris (617) 727-8732
SHIP Director	Debra S. Kamen (617) 727-8732

